

a U.G.C. Fellowship. I am thankful to the villagers of Kanjirankulam for giving me information in response to my queries.

DEPT. OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,
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3. INTERESTING DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS FOR PAKISTAN

It has long been recognised that the outer foothills of north-eastern Pakistan abutting on the Punjab plain represent the westernmost range extension of many interesting endemic Indo-Malaysian plant species characteristic of tropical dry-deciduous forest with a richness of variety quite lacking in any other part of Pakistan (McVean 1962). The Murree foothills, Kahuta and Margalla hills have vegetation typical of this narrow zone (Stewart 1958).

Not unnaturally there are a few mammals and many bird species characteristic of the oriental faunal zone, which enter Pakistan in this region only. Apart from the resident species, many of which are in themselves unique and interesting, there are always occasional or regular avian wanderers which invade westwards from the Siwaliks. I have passed many hundreds of hours of pleasurable bird watching in these hills with always the excitement of seeing a potential rarity and after one such recent visit to the region in early January 1973, feel that it would be useful to record the more interesting records, which are at variance with known distribution as published in S. Dillon Ripley's SYNOPSIS (1961).

557. **Blossomheaded Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*. In his account of the birds of Rawalpindi district, Whistler (1938) describes it as an irregularly occurring visitor to the northern Punjab and Salt Range mostly in winter. Having encountered it in April and May in the Murree foothills I had long suspected that a few might stay to breed. On June 6th 1972 I found two occupied nestholes of these parrots in a dead pine tree in the Lehtrar valley at about 4000 feet. The young birds were visible coming to the mouth of the nestholes when the parents arrived with food.

788. **Bluethroated Barbet** *Megalaima asiatica*. Not specifically included within Pakistan territory in the SYNOPSIS. This Barbet was nevertheless recorded by Hugh Whistler (1938)—as

an occasional sighting and appears to have increased since it is now a resident species in the Murree foothills whose ringing call in summer is a familiar sound.

1335. **Redbilled Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*. December 23rd 1968 an adult male seen at Lehtrar at about 2500 ft. It was extremely tame and allowed approach to within a few feet and was watched for about one hour by myself and two companions. The late H. W. Waite (1926) also secured a specimen from the Margalla Hills in December which is now in the B.M. (N.H.) Collection.
1892. **Thickbilled Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*. 5 Specimens collected September 1967 at Marala on the Chenab River at 800 feet. A group of four seen feeding June 6th 1972 in the Margalla Hills at 2500 feet.
1919. **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae*. Two adult males observed from December 30th 1972 to January 1st 1973 at Nurpur Shahan, Margalla Hills at about 1600 feet. These birds were regularly seen around the vicinity of a grove of trees and Shrine for three successive days, feeding on the nectar of the plant parasite *Loranthus longiflorus* which was at that time in flower.
1973. **Spotted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*. It is surprising that this species was not recorded by Hugh Whistler from Rawalpindi district in the Murree Hills as it is a fairly common resident in the outer foothills extending westwards to Swat. In 1965 I found a nest presumed to be of this species at Gora Gali at 4500 feet in the Murree Hills. I have sight records in the Margalla Hills in late December, mid September and late July.
2017. **Pinkbrowed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus rhodochrous*. In late winter and early spring this beautiful little finch can invariably be found in some of the more secluded ravines in Margalla Hills and it is therefore more than a straggler as described in Ripley's SYNOPSIS.
- There are two negative observations which might also be made with reference to this region of Pakistan and the SYNOPSIS.
1657. **Golden Bush Robin** *Erithacus chrysaeus*. The SYNOPSIS states that it occurs in Hazara and the border of Murree. To the best of my knowledge this is based on a single record of a nest taken by Colonel Rattray near Changla Gali in 1904. Many of Colonel Rattray's records have subsequently proved to be

unreliable especially covering the genus *Phylloscopus*. He collected eggs mostly using native collectors. There are no subsequent published records and it was not observed by Whistler or Waite in the region.

1733. **Orangeheaded Ground Thrush** *Zoothera citrina*. In the SYNOPSIS it is stated that this species breeds in West Pakistan from Murree eastwards. I have in former years often seen it in the Chittagong Hills of Bangladesh and I am positive it does not occur anywhere in the Murree foothills having never encountered it in periodic residence and visits dating from about 1952. Neither Waite nor Whistler observed this species and both knew the region well.

ROBERTS COTTON ASSOCIATES LTD.,
KHANEWAL,
PAKISTAN,
January 29, 1973

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4. THE INDIAN LORIKEET (*LORICULUS VERNALIS*):
ITS COURTSHIP AND MATING

On 23-xi-1972 I observed a pair of Indian Lorikeets courting and mating. As what I saw differed from G. M. Henry's (1955) account of the courtship of the Ceylon Lorikeet (*Loriculus beryllinus*) to which the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA & PAKISTAN (1969) makes a reference, and as F. G. Buckley (1968) states that 'Information on copulation in *Loriculus* spp. (how, when or if it is done while hanging or upright) is